

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /085 W
-----024095 102336Z /23

R 100742Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6284
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3845

E.9. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, PINT, IC, NO
SUBJ: REYKJAVIK YOUTH LEARDER'S MEETING, SEPTEMBER 11-17, 1978

REF (A) REYKJAVIK 0972, (B) OSLO 3563

1. ON REFLECTION, I AM SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT A TURNDOWN
TO THE NORWEGIAN YOUTH COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR A VISIT TO
KEFLAVIK WOULD BE A REAL MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AN
IMPORTANT POINT TO A GROUP OF INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS
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WHO REPRESENT, AT LEAST INSTITUTIONALLY, HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS OF YOUNG EUROPEANS. IN THE POST-CSCE ATMOSPHERE,
I THINK IT WOULD DO THE US GOVERNMENT AND THE ALLIANCE AS
A WHOLE NO HARM TO DEMONSTRATE THAT NATO IS DIFFERENT FROM
THE WARSAW PACT. BRINGING HOME THIS MESSAGE TO PEOPLE WHO
UNDOUBTEDLY INCLUDE A LARGE NUMBER OF RATHER JAUNDICED,
CYNICAL, LEFT-LEANING CRITICS OF THE WEST (NOT TO MENTION

DEVOTED OPPONENTS) WOULD I BELIEVE BE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE AND DRAMATIC. A REFUSAL, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL ONLY CONFIRM THEIR SUSPICIONS THAT WE ARE ALL KNEE-JERK COLD WARRIORS.

2. WHILE I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN KEFLAVIK HOSTING SUCH A GROUP, ESPECIALLY THE BLOC AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES, I THINK THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES IN THIS CASE OUTWEIGH THE REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE DISADVANTAGES. SOMEHOW WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH A FEASIBLE PLAN FOR A TWO-HOUR VISIT TO KEFLAVIK (ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO HOST AN INFORMAL SEMINAR/LUNCH AT THE BASE). I WOULD ASK THAT ALL OF US RETHINK THIS PROJECT; AND I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.
LERNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: YOUTH, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OSLO03845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780328-0438
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780878/aaaacndr.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08ca5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 REYKJAVIK 972, 78 OSLO 3563
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1778898
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REYKJAVIK YOUTH LEADER'S MEETING, SEPTEMBER 11-17, 1978
TAGS: PINT, IC, NO, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08ca5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014